

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A personal care absorbent article including an absorbent core and optionally a distribution layer, the article comprising a target area, an area below said target area, and an area outside said target area, wherein fluid moves in a Z -direction at a slower rate in said target area, and the area below said target area, than in the area outside said target area, wherein said slower rate of fluid movement is the result of either increased density of the absorbent core below said target area compared with areas of the absorbent core not below said target area, said increased density resulting from compression of the absorbent core, or by the inclusion of fibers of smaller denier at a higher fiber count, compared with areas of the absorbent core not below said target area, or alternatively, wherein said slower rate of fluid movement resulting from the inclusion of a rich amount of superabsorbent in the absorbent core below said target area compared with areas of the absorbent core not below said target area, the inclusion of a slow rate superabsorbent in the absorbent core below said target area, the inclusion of a soluble binder in the absorbent core below the target area, or a combination thereof, or still further alternatively, wherein said slower rate of fluid movement results from the inclusion of a soluble binder in a distribution layer below the target area, or a combination thereof.
2. (Currently Amended): The personal care article of claim 1 wherein an absorbent core has a higher density in an the area corresponding to the target area than the absorbent core in the an area outside the area corresponding to the target area.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended): The personal care article of claim 1 wherein ~~an~~ the absorbent core has a soluble binder in an the area below the target area.
6. (Currently Amended): The personal care article of claim 1 wherein ~~an~~ the absorbent core has

an area below the target area that is more hydrophobic than ~~the~~ an absorbent core area not below the target area.

7. (Currently Amended): The personal care article of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ further comprising a distribution layer ~~has~~ having a soluble binder below said target area.

8. (Currently Amended): The personal care article of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ further comprising a distribution layer, wherein the distribution layer below the target area is more hydrophobic in an area below the target area than the absorbent core area in areas not below the target area.

9. (Original): The personal care product of claim 1 chosen from the group consisting of feminine hygiene pads, diapers, training pants and incontinence products.

10. (Currently Amended): A feminine hygiene product comprising:

a baffle;

a body side liner having a target area, and;

an absorbent core disposed between said baffle and liner, comprising fluff, wherein said absorbent core either has a higher density in areas below said target area than in areas outside said target area, said higher density resulting from either compression of the absorbent core below said target area, or by the inclusion of fibers of smaller denier at a higher fiber count below said target area, compared with areas of the absorbent core not below said target area, or said core includes a soluble binder in an area below said target area, or alternatively a combination thereof;

wherein fluid moves in a Z-direction at a slower rate below said target area than outside said target area.

11. (Currently Amended): A personal care article having an absorbent core with a higher density in an area corresponding to a the target area than the absorbent core has in the area outside ~~the~~ an area corresponding to the target area, said higher density resulting in slower fluid movement in

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the Z-direction and being produced by either compression of the absorbent core below said target area, or by the inclusion of fibers of smaller denier at a higher fiber count below said target area, compared with areas of the absorbent core outside said target area.